Office of the
American Foundation for the Blind

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METHODS FOR SECURING A

STATE REGISTRATION OF THE BLIND.

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

6 East 36th Street, N.Y.C.

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Copy one

REGISTRATION OF THE BLIND.

1. Procedure for State Census Committee (State Commission for Blind, if one exists)

2. Procedure for County Census Committees.

3. Checking and Follow-up by State Committee.

4. Form letter for circulation by State Board of Education.

5. Publicity Material.

6. History Form to be filled out when securing data on which to base needs of the blind.

Procedure of State Commission for the Blind.

1. Secure list of blind on Federal Census for 1920.
   Address Joseph A. Hill, Chief Statistician,
   Federal Census Bureau,
   Washington, D.C.

2. Lists of blind known to existing Institution and Organizations interested in the Blind of the State, i.e. Schools for Blind, Homes, Societies, etc.

3.
   (a) Secure endorsement of all State Boards before approaching local departments under State supervision, i.e. State Board of Education - State Board of Health, etc.

   (b) Endorsement of State Headquarters of organizations, i.e., American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., etc.

4. Organize a local Census Committee for each County and prepare local programme.

5. Distribution of Registration cards (Exhibit A) by;
   (a) State Board of Education
   with accompanying letter (Exhibit B)
   (b) Public Health Boards
   reaching County Physicians and Nurses.
   (c) County Medical Associations
   (d) Postmasters
   (e) Boards of Supervisors for each County.
   (f) Womens' Clubs
   (g) Boy Scout and Camp Fire Girls Organizations
   (h) Police Department
   (i) Red Cross Chapters,
   Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.
   (j) Lodges, Fraternities, etc.
   (k) Homes, Institutions and Charitable Agencies.

6. Compile lists with addresses for each County.

   Postmasters
   County Supervisors
   Superintendents of Poor
   County Physicians
   Public Health Nurses
   Moving Picture Theatres
   Newspapers
   Churches
   Clubs & Societies
   Institutions & Homes

7. Publicity:

   Prepare circular letters and publicity.
   Send letters and newspaper articles to each County.
   Census Committee weekly.
   Secure cooperation of Motion Picture Exchanges.

A CENSUS COMMITTEE should be formed in each County. to assist with distribution of Registration cards and educational publicity.

Designate special time for concentration of effort in each County (two weeks Census Campaign).

Sources of information to be reached locally.

Postmasters

County Supervisors

Superintendents of Poor

County Physicians

Public Health Nurses

Moving Picture Theatres

Newspapers

Churches

Clubs & Societies

Institutions & Homes

Divide sources among members of Committee.

Methods:

1. Personal appeal.
2. Circular letters.
3. Newspaper Publicity.
4. Slides in Motion Picture Theatres.

CHECKING AND FOLLOW UP.

All cards and lists returned to State Commission to be checked and registered.

(a) Alphabetically

(b) By County

Names on old lists "not verified" followed up by Nos. #1, #2, #3.

Old lists checked:

(a) Not found

(b) Deceased

(c) Moved away

(c) Not blind

Suggestions to be incorporated in letter issued by the State Department of Education, to Supervisors of schools.

The New York State Commission for the Blind is endeavoring to secure a complete registration of the blind within the State. In order to accomplish this, the assistance of all agencies and groups of persons as are in touch with local sources of information will be needed. The State Board of Education has therefore pledged its aid to assist the Commission for the Blind, in this effort. All Supervisors and District Superintendents are hereby instructed to distribute registration cards to teachers of rural and city schools, with a request that these be brought to the attention of pupils. Teachers shall be requested to aid in this inquiry by explaining to pupils and to collect these registration cards within a three or four weeks' period and to return them to the District Superintendent or Supervisor.

A letter should accompany the distribution of these cards when forwarded to teachers. The following points are suggested, in this connection:

1. The New York State Commission for the Blind has no register of the number of blind within the State and is therefore not in a position to prepare adequate plans on their behalf until such a census can be obtained.

2. Names and addresses only are necessary, although further information will be of service.

3. Children with defective vision or adults who are losing their eyesight should be reported, as well as those who are totally blind.

4. The New York State Commission for the Blind has a corps of Home Teachers, who are prepared to teach Braille (raised type) also industrial work to such persons as are not in a position to leave their homes for instruction. Anyone desiring their services may make application to the State Commission.

5. Please impress upon your pupils with the <u>importance of these facts</u> and ask them to report any members of their families or persons within their community falling within the scope of this inquiry. All cards should be returned by them to the Teacher who has distributed them. Duplicates will be checked up at the Commission Headquarters.

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

PREPARED BY

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

Printed card as follows:

(front)

301

Do you know of any adult or child in your community who is Blind? Please state age

Name . . . . . .

Address. . . . . .

Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

Registration system of the New York State Commission for the Blind-for the purpose of extending such assistance as is within their power to those who desire it.

(back)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please return this card to your Scoutmaster, Captain, or to the following address.

N. Y. STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
Hall of Records, New York City

These cards should be printed with blank space at bottom -

Reverse side to be filled in by Department of Education,

Boy Scouts or Local Census Committee, according to programme.

POST CARD
(front)

The New York State Commission for the Blind is re-organising its work and we are especially anxious to know whether we can be of service to you; if so in what way?

Would it be helpful to you to have a local organization for the blind in your community; we should be glad to hear from you and to have the names of any other blind persons who might benefit from such an association.

The Commission is planning to issue a quarterly Bulletin to keep you in touch with its activities. Please mail the return post-card, stating your correct address and whether you would like to receive a copy of the Bulletin.

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

New York State Commission for the Blind

HALL OF RECORDS

NEW YORK, N. Y.

(back)

Name _____

Address _____

Remarks:

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

Date. 1923

Name . . . . . Age . . . . . .
(Last Name) (1st Name)

Address . . . . . .
(No.) (Street)

. . . . . .
(City) (County)

1. Are you receiving the Message to the Sightless? . . . . . .

2. Do you wish to receive the Message to the Sightless? . . . . . .

Ink Print Edition . . . . . N.Y. Point Edition . . . . . .

3. Are you totally blind? . . . . . .

4. Or do you distinguish large objects such as houses, trees, etc?. . . . . .

5. Or can you read ordinary print? . . . . . .

6. Remarks: If you wish to give further information, or if you think we can help you in any way, kindly use the following lines.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

POST CARD

(front)

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

6 East Thirty-Sixth Street,

New York, N.Y.

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MAIL THIS ATTACHED POST CARD TO US WITH YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS.

WE HAVE SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO TELL YOU.

- -

#3 Sent to all "un-Verified" names where no reply was received to the earlier inquiries.

New York State Commission for the Blind

6 East 35th Street,

New York, N.Y.

(back)

If you are blind, please mail this card

NAME . . . . . .
(First Name) (Last Name)

ADDRESS

. . . . . .
(No) (Street)

. . . . . .
(City or Town)

. . . . . .
(County) (State)

Material for Slides to be used by Motion Picture Houses.

FROM OUT THE DARK

Have you aided in the work for the blind
by reporting the name and address of
those known to you?

IF NOT - DO IT TODAY.

Your act may open opportunities which will
release them from darkness.

Please send names and addresses
to the

Northern New York Association for the Blind,
Watertown, N. Y.

"BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM".

Material for Slide to be used at Theatres.

FROM OUT THE DARK.

Help the blind in your community to better
their economic and social condition.

Opportunities are open to them which will
release them from darkness.

Report the name and address of every blind
person known by you
to the

Northern New York Association for the Blind,
Watertown, N. Y.

DO IT TODAY.

The World War has brought to public attention as never before, the problem of the blind. People are realizing more and more that blindness while a handicap need not bar an individual from the joys which come from doing constructive work.

In order that the problem in this community may be considered in a practical way, a census of all the blind is being taken by the ---

---

in cooperation with the State Commission for the Blind. Plans for the future work for the blind in this community will be based on the results of this census, so it is very important that every blind person be registered.

You are requested to send to ----------

the name and address of every blind person known to you. Do not rely on your neighbor to send in names; your neighbor may be relying on you.

Delays are dangerous. Send in the names and addresses at once.

THE BLIND - THEIR BIRTHRIGHT

"We, the blind, need only the opportunity
to fill the places we are fitted to fill,
We would have our blindness looked upon
as a handicap and not as an affliction."

For such persons to sit idle with folded hands is killing, bodily, mentally and spiritually; soul destroying. They do not wish to be supported , to be taken care of for the rest of their lives - what they want is a fair opportunity to earn a living - to be given an equal chance, with their sighted fellows, and live their life as normal beings should. This is their birthright.

To such, the visits of a Home Teacher who is also blind, are an unqualified blessing. The Home Teacher brings instruction in reading and writing of raised type, and opens up infinite resources for mental and material help. She establishes a connection with circulating libraries for the blind and teaches industrial work in the homes, which can be sold at market prices.

This is only one phase of help open to the blind - there is also that of employment - likewise help in securing medical examination and treatment, as well as many other opportunities when needed but which limited space prevents mention of here.

In order that more blind persons may receive the benefits of the Home Teacher- Nurse or Employment Worker, a campaign to secure the registration of all of the blind in this State is being conducted by the _____ Association in cooperation with the New York State Commission for the Blind.

Please send the name, correct address and age of any blind person (adult or child) known to you, to _____.

Even if blind people known to you may not need the services of any of these workers now, the Commission would like to have their names and addresses in order to send them, free of charge, a quarterly Bulletin which contains many items of interest to the blind.

PUBLICITY MATERIAL

PREPARED BY

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

HALL OF RECORDS BLDG.,

NEW YORK, N. Y.

CENSUS SUGGESTIONS.

You can assist in securing a complete registration of the blind in your County by bringing the following to the attention of every carrier (City or R.F.D.), clerk and employee connected with your post office.

1- No complete census or record of the blind of _____ County has ever been taken. We are depending on your cooperation for this complete census and your reply should be in our hands not later than _____.

2- Report every person (child or adult) who is blind or becoming blind. Names and addresses only are necessary, although further information will be of service. When in doubt, PLEASE REPORT, as no harm can be done and total blindness may be prevented. Ask your neighbors and friends for information.

3- More Home Teachers, more Nurses are being asked for and our demands must be based on facts as to the extent of this need. A registration will prove the need - it will help the blind as a group and bring individual aid to many.

4- The card need not be kept until it is entirely filled, but should be returned promptly to the address shown on the card. Your name will not be mentioned in connection with any information which you may give us. THE CARDS ARE NUMBERED AND SHOULD BE RETURNED EVEN IF YOU DO NOT KNOW ANY BLIND.

5- Remember that infants, children and adults should be registered, irrespective of their need for immediate assistance. Your share toward helping ALL of the blind includes a response to this appeal.

6- The results from postal employees in other parts of the State have been most gratifying. We are confident of your cooperation and TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF THANKING YOU FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RENDER.

AN APPEAL - BUT NOT FOR FUNDS.

Do you know that approximately one out of every thousand persons is blind? When the census of the blind was taken in 1906 for New York State seven thousand were registered; we are constantly finding more. Many however have not yet been reached.

If you are asked about your attitude and feeling towards the blind, we feel confident of your answer: You will tell us that your sympathy is unbounded; there is nothing you will not do to help the blind. Let us put your sympathy to the test. We do not ask you for money; we only ask for your cooperation.

Do you know of any blind persons (adult or child) in your community? If so, we ask you to send the names, addresses and ages of such persons to _____Association or to the State Commission for the Blind, Hall of Records, New York City.

How will this help the blind, you ask?

More Home Teachers, more Nurses are being asked for and our demands must be based on facts as to the exact extent of this need. A registration will prove the need - it will help the blind as a group and bring individual aid to many.

Send in the names and so prove that your sympathy really is with the blind, lest some of us having sight, may seem to be also blind.

IF YOU SHOULD LOSE YOUR SIGHT TOMORROW, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Stop! think what this means.

It means a complete readjustment of life to entirely new conditions.

It means accepting blindness and learning to count its handicap of one to be surmounted in spite of all of the difficulties and hardships which this entails.

It means learning to read and write raised type so that one will not be entirely cut off from the intellectual resources which every person needs for mental stimulus.

It means in many cases, learning some new occupation which will bring in an income.

The_____Association for the Blind, in cooperation with the New York State Commission for the Blind provides help to people who have lost or are losing their eye sight. They also provide Home Teachers to give instruction in reading and writing, and training in industrial work. Often times, and when most needed, people who could benefit from this help do not know where they can apply for it and their existence is not known to these Organizations. For this reason a complete registration of the blind of New York State is now being taken.

You are asked to send in the names of any blind persons or those whose eye sight is failing to the _____ Association or to the Commission for the Blind, Hall of Records, New York City. We ask that you send these names whether any help is needed at the present moment or not, for other things depend upon such a registration as well as immediate help to any one individual.

Plans which may be developed to improve the general welfare of the blind in this State must be prepared with a very definite knowledge of the extent to which the problem exists. This can only be known through a registration of each individual who is either blind or becoming blind. The staff of Blind Home Teachers who visit the blind in their homes and give them instruction as mentioned above, can only be increased if the total number of the blind in the State warrants it.

There are various ways in which the blind can be helped as a group and the State Commission for the Blind is working on plans for their betterment at the present time. Nothing concrete can be presented to the legislature until recommendations can be supported by a knowledge of the registration of the number of the blind within the State. Your share towards helping all of the blind of the State includes an answer to this appeal.

Do not put it off. Write down the names of those whom you know, at once and send them to one of the addresses above. Remember that infants children and adults should be registered, irrespective of their need for immediate assistance.

Do you know that fifty per cent. of blindness is preventable?

The files or organizations working for the blind show that at least 50% of blindness is preventable. Often the most seemingly trivial industrial accidents are responsible for blindness. Blindness from children's diseases, measles, scarlet fever, hooping cough, etc., is not uncommon.

The Commission is developing plans to place its four nurses in eye clinics throughout the State for the purpose of "follow-up" of patients for whom the proper carrying out of treatment is a vital factor in saving of eye sight. Four nurses however cannot hope to accomplish the amount of work to be done in the entire State.

We need more nurses, more Home Teachers and more Employment Workers and our demands must be based upon facts as to the extent of this need.

What has this to do with registration you ask? A registration will prove the need - it will help the blind as a group and bring individual aid to many.

The ———— Association in cooperation with the State Commission for the Blind is endeavoring to secure a complete registration of the blind in the State and requests that you send to _____the names and addresses of all the blind or partially blind people (adult or child) known to you?

It is urgent that these names be sent in promptly in order that adequate plans may be made in behalf of the blind in this community.

Do not postpone sending the names until tomorrow - DO IT NOW.

The problems of persons who have lost their sight in adult life is one which merits the most sympathetic consideration. Normal human beings naturally full of life, hope, energy and ambition but add to the blinded normal human beings with the above given attributes, native mettle and they will surmount all obstacles. For such persons to sit with idle, folded hands is killing, bodily, mentally and spiritually; soul destroying. They do not wish to be supported, to be taken care of for the balance of their lives - what they want is a fair opportunity to earn a living - to be given an equal chance, with their sighted fellows, and live their life as normal beings should. <u>This is their birthright.</u>

To such, the visit of a Home Teacher who is also blind, is an unqualified blessing. The Home Teacher brings instruction in reading and writing of raised type and opens up infinite resources for mental and material help. She establishes their connection with circulating libraries for the blind and teaches them to make and dispose of saleable articles.

This is only one phase of help open to the blind - there is also that of employment - likewise help in serving medical examination and treatment as well as many other opportunities when needed which limited space prevents mention of.

In order that more blind may receive the benefits of the Home Teacher - Nurse or Employment Worker a campaign to secure the registration of all the blind is being conducted by the ----------
----------Association in cooperation with the New York State Commission for the Blind.

Send the name of any blind person (adult or child) known to you to ----------

Even if these people known to you are not in need of the immediate services of one of these workers, the Commission would like to have their names and addresses in order to send them free of charge a Bulletin, issued quarterly, which contains many items of interest to the blind.

HAPPIER DAYS ARE JUST AHEAD FOR THE BLIND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

New plans are in preparation for their welfare in every section and as a preliminary step to learning the real needs of each group, the State Commission for the Blind in cooperation with the _____Association for the Blind is initiating a census with a view of getting in touch with every blind person in the State.

Your cooperation is earnestly solicited in order that the object of this census may be attained. Do you know of any blind or partially blind persons (adult or child) in your community?

Send the names and addresses of all the blind or partially blind people known to you to the _____Association.

By so doing you will be conferring a favor person and the Organization working in the interest of the blind. You may be the means of some person receiving medical attention which will aid in restoring vision. You may be the means of some person receiving instruction in reading, writing, etc; securing employment which will enable them to become wholly or partly self supporting.

Send in the names today.

THE PROBLEM OF PERSONS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR SIGHT IN ADULT LIFE IS ONE WHICH MERITS THE MOST SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

Normal human beings naturally full of life, hope, energy and ambition would feel, if suddenly blinded, that life might no longer be worth while; but add to the blinded normal human beings with the above given attributes, native mettle and they will surmount all obstacles. For such persons to sit with idle, folded hands is killing, bodily, mentally, and spiritually, soul destroying. They do not wish to be supported, to be taken care of for the balance of their lives - what they want is a fair opportunity to earn a living - to be given an equal chance with their sighted fellows, and live their life as normal beings should. This is their birthright.

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Send the name of any blind person (adult or child) known to you to _____

even if those known to you are not in need of immediate services of one of these workers, the Commission would like to have their names and addresses in order to send them free of charge a Bulletin, issued quarterly, which contains many items of interest to the blind.

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR BEST

You have no doubt read in a previous issue of this paper of the campaign being conducted by the _____ Association for the Blind in cooperation with the State Commission for the Blind to secure a complete registration of all the blind in the State.

Have you sent to the _____Association for the Blind the names and addresses of all the Blind or partially blind people (adult and child) known to you?

Think of the happiness in your heart if you could feel you were responsible for saving the sight of or improving the social and economic condition of some person!

Send in the names and addresses while the matter is still fresh in your memory. DO IT NOW.

CAC-NMH

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